

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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NESCO

E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF 98TH EX BD

REFS : A) PARIS 19140; B) STATE 172729

1. DEPT. AGREES THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO PROPOSE REGIONAL GROUPS ITEM IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ADD IT TO PROVISIONAL AGENDA BEFORE LATTER IS DISPATCHED (AROUND MID-AUGUST). WE ALSO SHARE PERM DEL'S DOUBTS ABOUT GETTING KIND OF RESOLUTION WE WOULD LIKE UNDER AN EXISTING ITEM.

2. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO PROCEED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRESERVE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN CASE EVENTS BETWEEN NOW AND OPENING OF BOARD OR RESULTS OF SOUNDINGS IN CAPITALS OF BOARD MEMBERS INDICATE IT WOULD BE WISE NOT TO PRESS, AT LEAST AT SEPTEMBER BOARD, FOR RESOLUTION FAVORABLE TO ISRAEL. IN SHORT, WE WOULD LIKE TO IDENTIFY AN ITEM THAT COULD BE PLACED ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA BEFORE IT IS DIS-

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PATCHED AND WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY GENERAL TO GARNER MAXIMUM

SUPPORT WHEN AGENDA IS VOTED UPON AND WOULD ENABLE US TO DECIDE AT LAST POSSIBLE MINUTE WHETHER TO PRESS FOR ACTUAL RESOLUTION OR SETTLE FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION.

3. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE TO APPROACH REGIONAL GROUPS FROM POINT OF VIEW OF CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP OR DEFINITION OF GROUPS, SINCE THERE IS LITTLE IF ANYTHING NEW THAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT THEM AND OUR OWN INTENTIONS WOULD BE QUITE TRANSPARENT. INSTEAD, WE MIGHT SEEK TO INITIATE CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS TO DEFINE FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES, ANALYZING EXPANDED ROLE THAT THESE COULD PLAY IN FACILITATING SMOOTH EXECUTION OF UNESCO'S PROGRAM AND IDENTIFYING PRACTICAL STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS. FACT IS THAT UNESCO HAS DISCUSSED REGIONAL GROUPS AT LENGTH, ALWAYS ON BASIS OF ASSUMPTION THAT THEY WERE GOING TO BE OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE, BUT WITHOUT EVER GETTING DOWN TO PRACTICAL CASES -- I.E., PURPOSES THEY CAN SERVE AND HOW THEY CAN BEST BE FASHIONED INTO AN EFFECTIVE TOOL OF THE ORGANIZATION.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE PERM DEL'S VIEWS, SUGGESTIONS RE WORDING OF ITEM FOR AGENDA AND IDEAS FOR FLESHING IT OUT AND DEFENDING IT AT BOARD MEETING. INGERSOLL

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